GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:17
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2017
Underwater Exploration by ASI
Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.;Puttaraju Shri C.S.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Underwater Archaeological Wing of ASI has been inactive for the last seven years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are only six underwater experts for the 7500 km. coastal frontiers of the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for the promotion of exploration of the coastal areas having immense potential?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b) No, Madam. The Underwater Archaeological Wing of ASI has been revived.

(c) No, Madam. There are quite a number of underwater archaeologists working in various institutions in the country.

(d) Credible initiative has been taken by Archaeological Survey of India in posting underwater archaeologist at its Underwater Archaeology Wing at Goa. Besides, Institutions like, National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) Goa are already engaged in exploring coastal areas in partnership/collaboration with ASI.